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Washington, DC 20231

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By:

Maisie C. Livengood

Maisie C. Livengood

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Cech et al.

Application No.: 09/432,503

Filed: November 2, 1999

For: HUMAN TELOMERASE
CATALYTIC SUBUNIT

Examiner: M. Monshipouri

Art Unit: 1652

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION
REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed March 27, 2001, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment and consideration of the remarks set forth herein. A five month petition for extension of time is enclosed herewith, extending the period for response from April 27, 2001, to September 27, 2001. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following new claims:

23. (New) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide that encodes a human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTRT) protein, variant, or fragment